

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 25, 26 and 28-30 are rejected U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,850,891 to Walkup et al. (“Walkup”). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a socket body having a first conductor arranged to connect contacts on first and second memory modules. The Examiner alleges that Walkup inherently teaches a conductor arranged as claimed. However, in relying on a theory of inherency, the Examiner must provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily flows from the teachings of the applied prior art. MPEP 2112 citing *Ex parte Levy*, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1464 (BPAI 1990).

In this case, the Examiner has not provided any reasoning as to why the interlocking sockets shown in Fig. 8 of Walkup would necessarily be constructed with a conductor arranged to connect contacts on first and second memory modules. Walkup only teaches that multiple interlocking sockets can be mounted in a side-by-side contiguous relationship to achieve high packing density of sockets and memory modules. (Col. 8, lines 26-29.) But Walkup does not teach, suggest, or inherently require a conductor arranged to connect contacts on first and second memory modules as recited in claim 1. Claims 2, 4-9, 11, 25, 26 and 28-30 also recite specific conductor arrangements that Walkup does not teach, suggest, or inherently require.

The Examiner also alleges that Walkup expressly discloses in Fig. 8, in view of Fig. 1, N conductors that are arranged to connect contacts on the surfaces of the memory modules in a daisy-chain configuration. Walkup, however, only discloses conductors that contact a single memory module. The other ends of Walkup’s conductors are leads that are intended for insertion into holes in a mounting circuit board, typically through soldering. (Col. 3, lines 3-8.) Walkup does not teach, suggest, or inherently require a conductor arranged to connect two memory modules loaded into a single socket body.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 3, 10, 27, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walkup. Applicant traverses this rejection.

The Examiner’s rejection of dependent claims 3, 10, 27, and 31 is implicitly based on the rejection of the underlying base claims. However, since the base claims are not

anticipated by Walkup, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for claims 3, 10, 27, and 31.

Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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